

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A method for processing a document page
5 containing transparent graphics objects for printing,
said method comprising:

creating a transparency list containing the
transparent graphics objects of said document page;
and

10 converting only objects contained in said
transparency list into bitmaps for printing.

2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

15 generating a bitmap frame for at least one
object in said transparency list wherein an area of
said bitmap frame is less than an area of the entire
document page.

3. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

20 processing portions of the document page that
do not include objects in said transparency list as
non-bitmapped data.

4. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

25 examining a non-transparent object of said
document page for overlap with at least one
transparent graphics object contained in said
transparency list; and

30 inserting said non-transparent object into said
transparency list upon said non-transparent object
overlapping with at least one transparent graphics
object contained in said transparency list.

5. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

35 generating a frame for each overlapping
compound object in said transparency list, an
overlapping compound object being formed by a
transparent graphics object and non-transparent

objects overlapping said transparent graphics object, said frame defining an area to be printed as a bitmap in printing the overlapping compound object.

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6. The method of Claim 5, further comprising: generating said frame for each overlapping compound object as a composition of subframes.

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7. A system comprising:
a processor; and
a memory coupled to said processor, and storing therein computer instructions for a method for processing a document page containing transparent graphics objects for printing wherein upon execution of said computer instructions on said processor, said method comprises:

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creating a transparency list containing the transparent graphics objects of said document page in said memory; and
converting only objects contained in said transparency list into bitmaps for printing.

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8. The system of Claim 7, wherein said method further comprises:

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generating a bitmap frame for at least one object in said transparency list wherein an area of said bitmap frame is less than an area of the entire document page.

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9. The system of Claim 7, wherein said method further comprises:

processing portions of the document page that do not include objects in said transparency list as non-bitmapped data.

10. The system of Claim 7, wherein said method further comprises:

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examining a non-transparent object of said document page for overlap with at least one transparent graphics object contained in said transparency list; and

5 inserting said non-transparent object into said transparency list upon said non-transparent object overlapping with at least one transparent graphics object contained in said transparency list.

10 11. The system of Claim 7, wherein said method further comprises:

15 generating a frame for each overlapping compound object in said transparency list, an overlapping compound object being formed by a transparent graphics object and non-transparent objects overlapping said transparent graphics object, said frame defining the area to be printed as a bitmap for printing the overlapping compound object.

20 12. The system of Claim 11, wherein said method further comprises:

generating said frame for each overlapping compound object as a composition of subframes.

25 13. A computer program product comprising computer program code for a method for processing a document page containing transparent graphics objects for printing, said method comprising:

30 creating a transparency list containing the transparent graphics objects of said document page; and

 converting only objects contained in said transparency list into bitmaps for printing.

35 14. The computer-program product of Claim 13, wherein said method further comprises:

generating a bitmap frame for at least one object in said transparency list wherein an area of said bitmap frame is less than an area of the entire document page.

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15. The computer-program product of Claim 13, wherein said method further comprises:

10 processing portions of the page that do not include objects in said transparency list as non-bitmapped data.

16. The computer-program product of Claim 13, wherein said method further comprises:

15 examining a non-transparent object of said document page for overlap with at least one transparent graphics object contained in said transparency list; and

20 inserting said non-transparent object into said transparency list upon said non-transparent object overlapping with at least one transparent graphics object contained in said transparency list.

17. The computer-program product of Claim 13, wherein said method further comprises:

25 generating a frame for each overlapping compound object in said transparency list, an overlapping compound object being formed by a transparent graphics object and non-transparent objects overlapping said transparent graphics object, said frame defining the area to be printed as a bitmap for printing the overlapping compound object.

30 18. The computer-program product of Claim 17, wherein said method further comprises:

35 generating said frame for each overlapping compound object as a composition of subframes.